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February 21, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Chair Pro Tem  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David Sanders, Ph.D.   
Director

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM #13: KIDSAVE - UPDATE REPORT ON THE KIDSAVE WEEKEND MIRACLES PROGRAM.**

On October 26, 2004, an update on the motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich regarding the Kidsave Weekend Miracles program was submitted to the Board. The Board had ordered the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to review the model developed by Kidsave as it related to finding parents for older youth and report back to the Board with recommendations to incorporate the Kidsave model into the Department's plan to increase permanency for foster youth in Los Angeles County.

The Kidsave program has been working independently on raising money for this project to be implemented in Los Angeles County. They have currently raised \$90,550 toward this effort. This included the matching grant, Greenbaum Foundation Challenge Match, of \$50,000 to support LA County and Kidsave in initiating the program. DCFS was able to match that grant by identifying \$50,000 from the recruitment budget that can be used for DCFS to initiate the program as well. DCFS was able to identify an additional \$50,000 to support the program throughout the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

In the last report to the Board, it was reported that Kidsave needed to complete their protocol with Fairfax County, Virginia. Kidsave has completed their protocol with Fairfax County and DCFS is close to the completion of modifying those protocols for Los Angeles County. Further, the DCFS Adoptions Division will be identifying a

Children's Social Worker (CSW) that will be assigned to carry the cases of the children identified to participate in the program as well as work as a liaison for the project. This CSW will also be doing a thorough search of the cases to identify any potential families in the children's lives that could be part of the Kidsave program and be a permanency resource for the child. The Kidsave CSW will insure that the children are prepared to participate in this program, including recruitment activities and the adoption process.

The role of Kidsave will be to recruit and identify potential host families, mentors and advocates. DCFS will also assist in recruitment by reaching out to families that want to be a resource for our children but are not yet feeling ready to adopt or provide foster care. Kidsave will assess, train and prepare families to participate in the program and is currently working on engaging the Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) that are dually licensed for adoptions and foster care in assisting in this process. Kidsave will be arranging monthly events where interested prospective adoptive families can meet children who are staying with the Kidsave host families.

The Kidsave Weekend Miracles Program will initially begin in the Covina and Lakewood offices due to the number of children needing permanency in those offices and because they are participating in the DCFS Concurrent Planning redesign pilot. The plan is to begin the program by July 2005. It is hoped that if it is successful, it can be expanded to other offices in 2006. Kidsave staff have been participating in the Annie E. Casey Community Partnering and Family to Family meetings as well as the DCFS Recruitment Partnership Forums and have become valuable partners with the Department in working towards the goal of increasing permanency for hard to place older youth.

If you have questions or need further information please contact me, or your staff may contact Helen Berberian, Board Relations Manager, at (213) 351-5530.

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